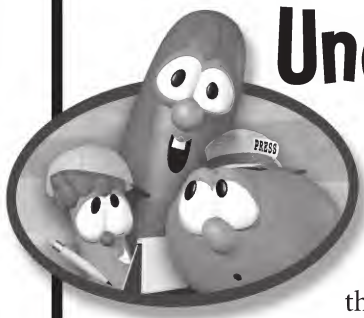


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Undercover Reporters Discover Time Machine

THINK—LINK—ACT discovered an amazing machine that allowed them to go back in time and experience a person's life and times. And so the reporters had the chance to witness the amazing life story of Joseph.

The story starts out, **THINK** reports, with a troubled family. Because Joseph is his father's favorite son, Joseph's brothers plan to hurt him. But instead of being hurt, Joseph is sold by his brother's to slave traders and he is taken to Egypt.

While in Egypt, Joseph serves a royal family. The wife of his master tempts Joseph to do wrong, and when Joseph refuses, she lies about Joseph and he is thrown in prison. But Joseph serves well, and is given jobs to do while there. He explains the dreams of two prisoners, and tells one of them to remember him.

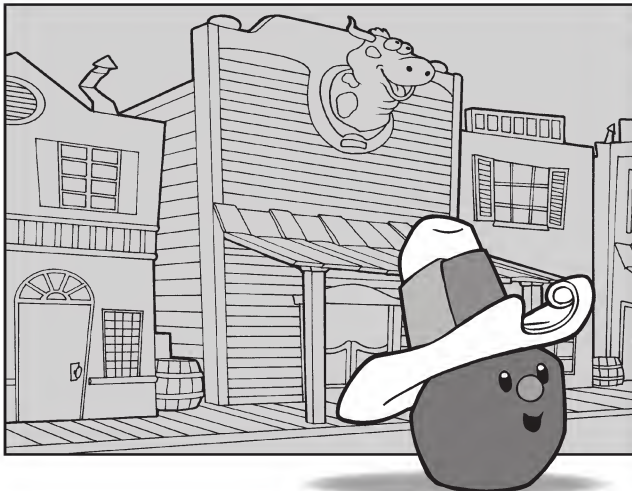
Later, the Pharaoh of Egypt has strange dreams, and the prisoner remembers Joseph and has Joseph explain the dreams to Pharaoh. Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge of Egypt, and he organizes a plan to care for the people when they run out of food.

LINK picks up the story with the part where Joseph's brothers have to come to Egypt to get food. Joseph recognizes his brothers but they don't recognize him. Joseph tricks his brothers and forces them to bring Benjamin, the youngest brother, to Joseph. Finally, Joseph reveals himself to his brothers and forgives them.

ACT further reports that the most amazing thing about Joseph's life is how he trusted God through all the hard times he faced. Only with God's help was he able to go from being a slave to a powerful ruler in all of Egypt.

Undercover Reporters Hide Out in Desert Dwelling Family

The undercover reporters report that the life of Joseph is much more exciting than their sketchy summary you read about earlier. So they have all decided to go back in their time machine and look at each part of Joseph's life in more detail. The next report finds them hiding out in Joseph's family, hearing for themselves how pride and jealousy led to the beginning of Joseph's problems.



Veggies Visit Dodgeball City

Bob and Larry have been encouraging kids to put their trust in God as they **THINK—LINK—ACT** in ways to connect to a powerful relationship with him.

Attendees are plugging into the Program Verse from James 4:8, "*Come near to God and he will come near to you.*"

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Family Trust Get out and take some risks as a family. Go to the amusement park and ride a scary ride, play a new game, or try a new restaurant. While you're out, talk about how it's tough to do something new sometimes. You don't really know how things will turn out . . . you might get sick on the ride, you might not like the food at the new restaurant. But,

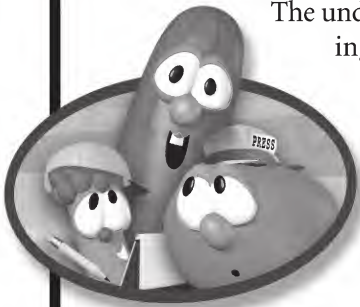
if you can take risks with people who love you and who you trust, like your family, it's not nearly as scary as having to do it on your own. It's like that with God, too. We know that we can trust him, so when scary things happen to us, we can feel better just knowing that God is taking care of us.



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Undercover Reporters Discover Family Plot



The undercover reporters have been hiding out in Jacob's family. THINK witnessed Jacob giving his favorite son, Joseph, a beautiful robe. Joseph's ten older brothers were jealous of Joseph, and Joseph made it worse by telling strange dreams that had his family bowing down to him!

LINK followed Joseph as he went out to his brothers while wearing his special robe. ACT was with the other brothers as they plotted to harm Joseph. But one brother, Rueben, told the other brothers to throw Joseph into a dry well, and they did. Rueben planned to rescue him from the well later, ACT reports.

But while Rueben was away, a group of traders came by and the brothers sold Joseph to them! THINK and LINK followed the traders on their trip to Egypt, while ACT watched the brothers finish their plan. They tore Joseph's robe and smeared animal blood on it and then took it to their father, Jacob. ACT says Jacob believed Joseph had been killed and was very sad.

Undercover Reporters Join Up in Egypt

ACT joined THINK and LINK as they followed the traders into Egypt. They will report on Joseph's fate in the next *VeggieConnections*. Don't miss it!

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Help Column

Dear Larry,

My mom is making me take piano lessons. I don't like to practice the piano, and I don't want to take lessons. I want to be an astronaut someday, and I don't need piano lessons!

Patty at the Piano in Peoria

Dear Patty,

Your mom knows what's best for you, so keep on practicing! God has a plan for your life. When you get older you may be an astronaut, but you'll be an astronaut who knows how to play the piano! I had dreams of playing the piano when I was just a little cuke, but it's hard to "tickle the ivories" when you don't have hands! God had other plans for me!

Larry

Have each member of your family write a "Dear Larry" letter concerning a problem they face. Exchange the letters so that another member of the family can write a response.

Wanted: Someone Who Wants Help!

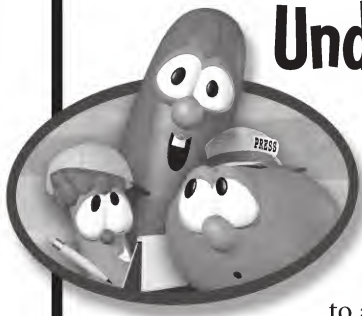
As a family, think of a neighbor or friend who may be having a problem and needs help. Decide what you can do together to help this person so that they will know that God has filled you with joy, peace, and hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Romans 15:13)



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Undercover Reporters Reveal Location of Special Brother

THINK reports Joseph continued to trust in God, and God allowed Joseph to be sold to an Egyptian official of Egypt's king, Pharaoh. LINK says the official, Potiphar, was so impressed with Joseph's service, the official made Joseph the chief servant in his household.

ACT reports that Potiphar's wife was also impressed with Joseph, but not in good way. She tempted

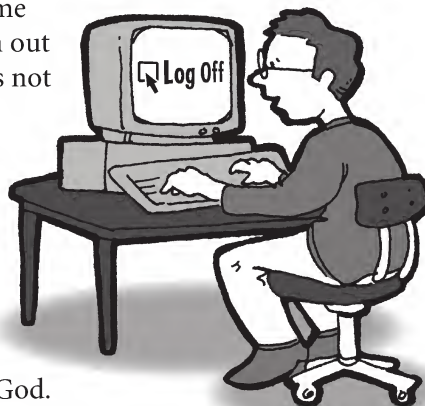
Joseph many times, and the last time Joseph ran away, even leaving his coat behind! To make matters worse for Joseph, she lied to her husband and said Joseph tried to attack her.

THINK reports Potiphar was so angry he threw Joseph in jail, but he overheard Joseph saying he would continue to trust in God!

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Temptation Tour Go on a tour of your home as a family, trying to look at it from God's point of view. What kinds of temptations do you have around? You may be surprised at what you find. Just one look in the kitchen pantry or fridge will probably reveal many! What about your television or computer? There are many things we spend too much time with, when we could be doing more productive things. Bob and Larry mentioned that they get tons of catalogs full of stuff they don't need. How many cool outfits does a vegetable need anyway?

Can you clean some of this temptation out of your house? It's not possible to keep ourselves from all temptation, but if we can invite just a little less of it into our home, it could make our lives more pleasing to God.



Be Aware of Slow-Moving Traffic Gawking at Signs!

Being obedient and trusting in God isn't just for kids. Adults have rules to follow, too, both from God's Word and our society, such as traffic rules. All of these rules are to protect us. Take a short drive in your car to try this activity as a family. Each time you see a traffic sign or signal, think of a way to apply it to your life. For example, STOP bugging your brother in the back seat when Mom's trying to concentrate on driving. Mom and Dad, SLOW down and spend more time with your family. GO tell someone about Jesus. Stretch your imagination to think of ways to apply road signs to your lives. THINK about how the signs can be applied to your lives, LINK them to trusting and obeying God, and ACT accordingly.

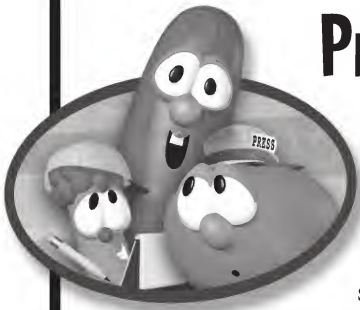
Undercover Reporters in Jail

The reporters followed Joseph to jail and will report on what happens next in the latest issue of *VeggieConnections*!

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Undercover Reporters Report on Unusual Prisoner



THINK interviewed the former chief servant of Potiphar, now serving time in Potiphar's own prison. Joseph simply said, "I will keep trusting God." LINK served alongside Joseph, and reports Joseph had the best attitude of all the prisoners.

ACT interviewed the chief prison warden, who was so impressed with Joseph's great attitude, he placed him over all the other prisoners. The warden said if all the prisoners had Joseph's attitude, he would be out of a job!



Advertisement

Are you feeling lost and lonely in this stressful, fast-paced world? Turn to God's Word! See for yourself in James 4:8, "*Come near to God and he will come near to you.*" Life-long relationship promised.

Undercover Reporters Discover Amazing Ability

"This jail is getting crowded!" THINK reports. LINK adds, "But did you hear about what these new guys said?" ACT witnesses God working in Joseph's life in another amazing way. Want details? Check out the next *VeggieConnections*!

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

New Collage Added to Art Museum Sometimes the best way to get through hard times is to remember that God is with you. Work together as a family to make a collage. Use pictures and lightweight objects from around your home that remind you of God's presence. Attach these to a posterboard. Hang the collage where it will remind your family—every time you walk in and out the door—that God is with you.

Worst-Case Scenario Survival Remind each other that God will help us, even in hard times, with this silly game. Gather the family and begin the game with the person who had the craziest day. This person should describe some far-fetched problem, (such as, the elephants just broke out of the zoo and are eating the garden). After a little giggle, everyone else should say "God will help us in hard times!" Give everyone in the family several turns at coming up with the most outlandish thing they can think of! Use your imagination!

Happy Attitude for Others Joseph was facing hard times by being sent to prison because someone lied about him. That was the last place Joseph wanted to be! Can your family think of someone in your town or school or church who is somewhere they don't want to be? (Hospital, nursing home, prison, away from home for business or training.) Make a batch of cookies or a card and deliver them as a family to send some happiness. Remember, God can use our happy attitudes to help cheer up others!

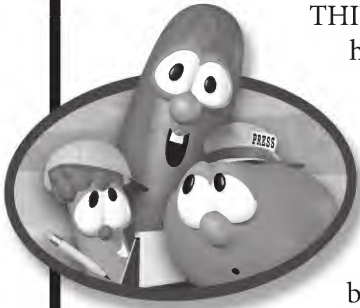


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Undercover Reporters Witness Special Powers



THINK reports two new prisoners have the jail buzz going. LINK informs us about two new prisoners, also unfortunate receivers of the king's anger. The two men, a chief baker and cupbearer, told about their unusual dreams they both had. The dreams didn't

create the buzz, but rather what the unusual prisoner Joseph, did—he interpreted the dreams!

ACT reports Joseph explained the dream of the cupbearer—him squeezing grapes into the king's cup—meant the cupbearer would again serve the king. But Joseph must have needed God's courage to tell the baker that his dream was bad news. The Baker was sad when he heard he would be taken away.

LINK also reports Joseph is hopeful about the cupbearer putting in a good word to the king about Joseph.

Sports

Relay Team Fares Well at World Games

After a devastating loss at last year's games, Dodgeball City's own relay team consisting of Little Joe, McPotiphar, and Sheriff Bob, have captured gold at the World Games. Little Joe got off to a great start and ran with joy as he handed the baton to McPotiphar. Although McPotiphar fell behind as he rounded the third turn, he ran with such peace and was able to take the lead because he knew his teammates trusted him and were confident in him. When anchor man Sheriff Bob received the baton and raced toward the finish line, he seemed to overflow with hope and power. The team attributed their victory to courage and having the will to return after

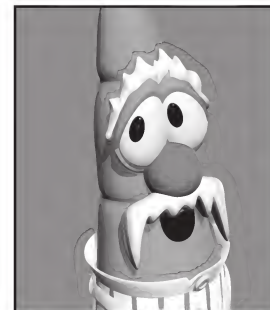
last year's disappointing upset. The fans were electrified by the trio's connecting performance. For more details, read Romans 15:13.



Little Joe



Sheriff Bob



McPotiphar

Undercover Reporters Still in Jail!

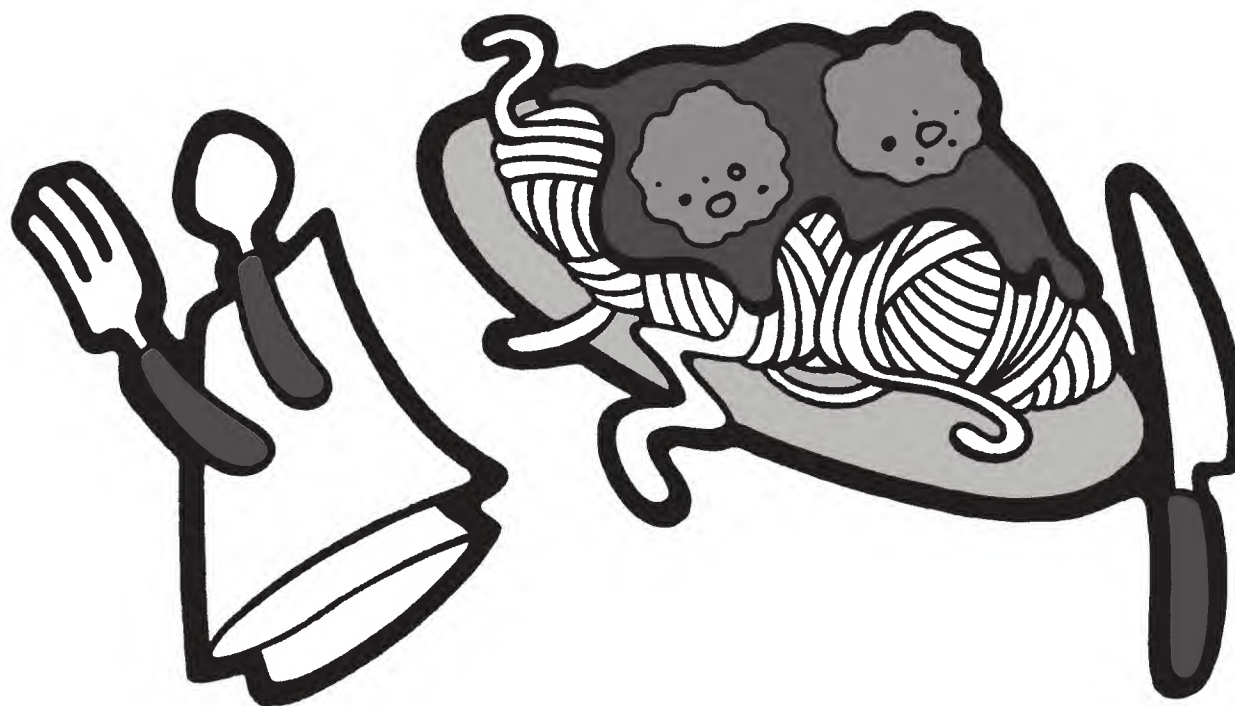
THINK — LINK — ACT are surprised they are still with Joseph in jail. The cupbearer forgot all about Joseph and he was stuck in jail for another two years! But then something happened that you can read all about in the next *VeggieConnections!*

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Local Dodgeball City Family in Prickly Situation!

Family members choose one person to leave the room. While gone, the rest of the family decides on a predicament. (For example, electricity goes off on a stormy night, or the car runs out of gas on the way to an appointment.) When the person out returns, he asks each person, "What would you do?" Each family member answers the question with one simple sentence. For example, the first family member might answer, "I would light a candle." If the person can't guess the predicament, he asks another family member, "What would you do?" Continue until the person guesses the predicament. Then send a different person from the room.

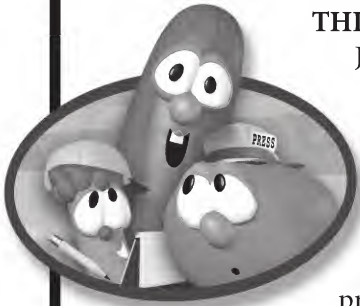
Courage Dinner Plan a family dinner together this week, with a few special dishes. This will be a dinner "fit for a king", to remember Joseph's prisonmates, for whom he interpreted dreams. Have a favorite main dish. Be sure to include some grapes in a fruit salad, to remind you of the cupbearers dream, that he was squeezing grapes into the king's cup. Finish your dinner with Courage Cupcakes, to remind you of the baker's dream. On the top of your cupcakes, put a few gummy worms in the frosting, to attract birds, just like the birds who came and ate the bread out of the baker's basket.



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Undercover Reporters Out of Jail



THINK—LINK—ACT followed Joseph out of jail into Pharaoh's court. **THINK** explains that Pharaoh had two strange dreams, and his wise men couldn't interpret them. It was then that the cupbearer remembered Joseph interpreting his dreams two years before. He told Pharaoh, and Joseph was brought before the king.

LINK reports Pharaoh had one dream about seven fat cows being eaten by seven skinny cows. His second dream had seven healthy stalks of grain eaten

by seven withered stalks. Joseph told the king he couldn't interpret dreams—but God could. Joseph told Pharaoh the two dreams meant the same thing—seven years of plenty before seven years of famine.

ACT reveals Joseph also told the king to find someone to manage the food during the seven good years so there would be food for the seven bad years. Pharaoh believed God was with Joseph and put him in charge. Joseph became a powerful leader, second only to Pharaoh.

LINK overheard Joseph say he would always trust God, and his life is a powerful example of that.

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Small Town Actors Headed to Broadway! Have family members think of situations that would demonstrate relationships with others, preferably situations that have happened within the family (for example, sharing, controlling anger, telling the truth, caring for someone who is sick.) Write the situations on slips of paper and place in a bowl. Work in pairs, and act out the situation for the rest of the family to interpret. Discuss the situations as a family after they have been interpreted.

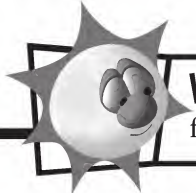
Building Crew You will need quite a lot of disposable cups (that you can write on) for this activity. Round up the family and build a large structure with your cups. Family members will write on each cup a way that he or she can build his relationship with God or with family. Take turns adding the cups to the structure, telling other family members about your relationship-building idea. See how large a building you can create before it falls. Be sure to keep and use your disposable cups. Each time you use one it can remind you to continue to build relationships.

County Fair Results

Participation was down in the cattle division at this year's Dodge County Fair. Only fourteen head of cattle were entered in the competition—7 fat cows and 7 lean cows. The seven fat cows took all the blue ribbons. The biggest cow was awarded "Best of Show" and will "moo"ve on to the state competition.

Undercover Reporters Spread Out over All of Egypt

THINK — LINK — ACT are crisscrossing Egypt in an attempt to follow the huge building program run by the new high official of Egypt, Joseph. A full report will be in the next edition of *VeggieConnections!*

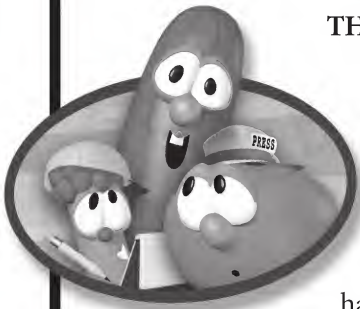


Weather Forecast: Plenty of rain and sunshine for the next seven years. No rain for the following seven years.

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Undercover Reporters Witness Egypt's Good and Bad Years



THINK—LINK—ACT's amazing time machine has had to cover a lot of years—14 to be exact—to cover the story of Joseph's planning and building program. **THINK** followed the first seven years. He reports Joseph had huge grain storage buildings

built all over Egypt. He also managed the storing of the extra grain.

LINK was stuck with reporting the seven years of famine. He reports the famine was so bad it spread beyond Egypt to the land of Canaan. People from all around were given food according to the rules Joseph had set up.

ACT has the inside scoop of the personal effect the famine has had on Joseph. Because of the famine in Canaan, Joseph's family came to get food. **ACT** reports Joseph even tricked his brothers to find out if they had changed. But in the end Joseph reveals his true identity to his brothers and is reunited with his father and youngest brother, Benjamin. Joseph has his family settle in Egypt, and Pharaoh gave them the best land for their flocks.

Undercover Reporters Learn Secret About Joseph's Brothers

Joseph's family are all together again and Joseph has forgiven his brothers. But **THINK — LINK — ACT** are surprised to learn something new about Joseph's brothers. They'll let you know in the next *VeggieConnections*. Don't miss it!

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Travel Bulletin: Flight Delayed Due to blowing sage-brush, incoming and outgoing flights on Dodgeball City's only propeller plane have been discontinued. If travel is urgent, you may be able to hitch a ride with a cowpoke. The next wagon train will be leaving sometime next spring.

Travel plans can get interrupted. Life plans can get interrupted. God's plans are never interrupted! Have each family member write down or draw some situation in their life that seemed bad at the time, but turned out to be a good thing. (Parents and older children may help the younger kids.) Then talk about how we need to trust in God's plan for our lives. When the discussion is finished, make paper airplanes from the papers on which you were writing.

Float them across the room—they're probably faster than the one and only plane at Dodgeball City!



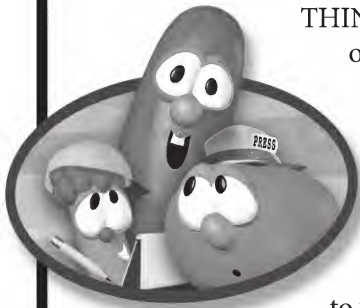
Local Resident Travels Abroad Deputy Dodge, a long-time cowpoke of Dodgeball City, was able to visit Egypt last month. He traveled from Canaan to Egypt, and reported that the camel ride was not nearly as smooth as on his trusted horse, Pepperoni. The deputy reminisced about Joseph's story and God's plan for his life while touring the area. Deputy Dodge has scheduled a travelogue at the Rootin' Tootin' Pizza Place next Saturday night. Free root beer will be served.

Gather your family with mugs of root beer and have your children tell you what they have been learning about the story of Joseph. See if they can tell you how God's plan worked in Joseph's life because he trusted him.

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Undercover Reporters Follow Joseph to Canaan



THINK followed Joseph to Canaan on the sad occasion of Jacob's death. Joseph was quoted that he was thankful to God for allowing him to see his father alive.

LINK reports that Joseph made the trip to his homeland to visit to bury his father. LINK obtained information that a letter was sent by the brothers to Joseph. Sources reveal the brothers were worried that Joseph had held off punishing his brothers for their evil deeds because their father, Jacob, was still alive. Since Jacob's recent death, the brothers were scared.

ACT overheard Joseph reassuring his brothers that his forgiveness was real, and they had nothing to worry about. One witness reported hearing Joseph tell his brothers, "What you intended to harm, God intended to save us all." Joseph's trust in God has been inspiring for many including THINK—LINK—ACT, as they've reported on his life story.

School News

Classes for grades one through eight will begin next Monday in Dodgeball City. Parents are reminded to check for supplies at Dodgeball City General Store. Each child will need one pencil and one tablet. Grades five through eight will also need a fountain pen and a bottle of ink.

Our Program Verse for the year will be from James 4:8, "Come near to God and he will come near to you." Please make sure that your children are familiar with that verse when school begins. We will be reciting it each day. Children who don't know the verse will have to stand in the corner.

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Family Competes in Memory Marathon Ask children if they can recall the Lesson about trust from each lesson of *VeggieConnections*. They may use their bandannas to refresh their memories. Then, as a family, play a memory game that will remind everyone to trust God. The first person says, "I can show my trust in God to others by praying for someone." The next family member says "I can show my trust in God to others by praying for someone and forgiving someone." Each family member repeats what has been said before him and then adds another phrase. Play continues until someone forgets a phrase.

Wanted: Friendly Fun Care Package After many years apart, Joseph's family was finally reunited. In today's culture, families and friends are often scattered across many miles, and even with modern communication like e-mail and telephone, we often don't communicate as often as we would like. Sit down as a family and send some fun to some of these friends and family members! Start off with a small, Western-style "Wanted" poster like your child may have made in class. Write some short, colorful notes about what you've been doing lately. Take a couple of silly digital photos to print out and include with your package. Then, send it off and really brighten someone's day!



Undercover Reporters' New Adventure

THINK — LINK — ACT have had a great time reporting on the amazing story of Joseph, the man who trusted God! Look for the next edition of *VeggieConnections* to find out where the reporters will go next!